



**Testimony
Betsy Gara
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the
Public Safety Committee
February 21, 2013**

**HB-6374 - AN ACT CONCERNING COORDINATED LONG-TERM DISASTER
RELIEF AND RECOVERY**

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) respectfully submits the following comments in **support of HB-6374**, which would create the CT Care Assistance and Relief Fund to support coordinated emergency recovery and provide relief and assistance to victims and municipalities affected by tragedies and other emergencies.

We have all witnessed and been humbled by the outpouring of emotion and support following a tragedy. People simply want to help - to offer some solace, some support to the people affected by the tragedy. Unfortunately, in all of the confusion following a tragedy, it is sometimes difficult for individuals and businesses to know how to help, which charities to donate to and whether donations will truly benefit the victims and their families.

Connecticut is very fortunate to many reputable charities that do a tremendous job in assisting victims and their families following a disaster or tragedy. HB-6374 builds on these efforts by creating a governing board to oversee the response efforts to ensure that relief and assistance will be provided to victims and communities affected by disaster and other tragedies.

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns supports HB-6374 and urges your support.